

# Integrity Matters



News and information for the horse racing community and the general public

Summer 2007

## EQUINE MEDICATION CONTROL AND DRUG TASK FORCE

### INDUSTRY FUNDS NOW IN PLACE; TASK FORCE STEPS UP ACTIVITY

Earlier this year, Ontario's horse racing community made a clear and decisive statement:

**...the acquisition, possession and administration of illegal and non-therapeutic drugs by a small number of individuals will not be tolerated by the thousands of caring and professional people who make up this community....**

#### New Medication Control Directive

To reinforce the medication control message, the ORC has issued a Directive that bolsters the out of competition testing program.

**General Directive No. 6/2007** reads as follows:

**Biological sample requirement**  
Effective immediately, the Ontario Racing Commission hereby orders that any owner and/or trainer identified as trainer of record with respect to any horse racing in the Province of Ontario shall be required, at any time or place and without prior notice, to make the horse available to have a biological sample taken.

Biological samples include, but are not limited to blood, urine, and hair.

To back up their support in practical terms, industry groups agreed to a two-year, \$ 1 million per year commitment to fund the efforts of the Equine Medication Control and Drug Task Force. The province's horse people associations are contributing two-thirds of this amount and race-tracks one-third. The balance of the \$ 1.68 million total annual budget is being met by the financial and human resources of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC).

The Task Force, operating under the auspices of the ORC Investigations Unit, will expand and carry on the medication control initiatives that intensified last year at the request of the horse racing community. These efforts will reinforce a message to the general public, that they can have full and complete confidence in the integrity of the sport.

New staff has been hired and each is undergoing extensive training, gathering intelligence data on illegal medications and taking part in a number of drug related investigations.

#### Input is vital to effective Equine Medication Control

The ORC's efforts to maintain an effective Medication Control program has the support of the entire horse racing community. As reported in the Fall 2006 issue, ORC Executive Director John Blakney established an Advisory Group to ensure that the industry has the opportunity to provide input and comment.

#### Industry Advisory Group

Members of the group meet on a bi-monthly basis to review facts and key information, as well as provide input on appropriate measures to combat the use of illegal and non-therapeutic drugs. The Group also was instrumental in securing industry financial support for the Task Force.

#### Scientific Advisory Group

In order to keep up to date and assemble information concerning new non-therapeutic medications, substances and devices which could

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Ontario  
Racing  
Commission  
10 Carlton Court  
Suite 400  
Toronto, ON M9W 6L2

Publication Mail 1680563



The competition we face from other gaming sectors is growing - whether it's a casino down the road, a lottery ticket or a sports match on the other side of the world. What do we do about it? If you were asked to contribute the one suggestion that you believe would secure the future viability of horse racing in Ontario, what would it be?

- More support from the news media to promote the sport?
- More family friendly activities at racetracks?
- Larger purses with better distribution to the participants?
- More tax incentives to own a horse?
- Simplify betting?

While one could make a case for these and many other suggestions, I believe the future of our industry is based on the fulfillment of one fundamental premise:

**That all horse racing competition in Ontario is fair, equitable and played by the rules.**

## **"What part will you play in securing the future of our industry?"**

Those of us who know and love this business know this to be the case. We know that by far the majority of those licensed in the industry conducts their business with professionalism and abide by the rules. We know the thousands of licensees in Ontario care passionately about the well being and health of the horse. We know that our jurisdiction is one of the most closely monitored sectors in North America, if not the world.

We know all this to be true. But what does the **general public** think? Do they believe they can have full and complete confidence in the integrity of our sport?

The sad reality of the multi-media marketplace today is that facts often have little to do with it - it's about **perception**. What people think is what really matters. News media reports in major publications, TV and radio earlier this year concerning allegations of illegal medications in horses did not help matters.

**"IF YOU WITNESS OR KNOW  
OF ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY,  
DON'T HESITATE  
TO TAKE A STAND."**

Again, we know the facts - the ORC is working with the industry-funded Equine Medication Control and Drug Task Force to end the practice of the use of illegal and non-therapeutic drugs by these few individuals. I can also assure you that we are doing all we can. As it should be, we must operate within the confines of due process and maintain a high standard of integrity as we work towards our objectives.

Now, more and more, the members of the racing community are doing their part too. Horse

people organizations and racetracks are getting involved in industry groups and contributing financially to support medication control. An ongoing, consistent effort is needed to counter any misperceptions that linger.

So, as an individual licensee, what part will you play in securing the future of our industry? Whether you are an owner or a jockey, a driver or a groom, a trainer or a racing official, I believe we all have a part to play soundly sending the message that our competition is fair, equitable and by the rules. Integral to this message is ensuring all of us "walk the talk," as actions are more important than just words.

If you witness or know of any illegal activity, don't hesitate to take a stand. Speak up to your colleagues. Voice your displeasure. Report the activities anonymously through the Hotlines. It is your future. It is your business.

Let these people who have no concern for you or the horse and only care about their own financial gain know loud and clear that they are not welcome. More than that, their actions will not be tolerated by the thousands of caring and professional people who make up this community. This Commission is firmly committed to eradicating their use of illegal medications. I can assure you they are not welcome and will be dealt with sternly.

The reputation of horse racing in Ontario and the financial stability of the industry are on the line. The confidence of racing participants, the wagering public and the public at large is at stake.

There are no passengers in securing our future. There are only those who stand and play their part.

# ORC NEWS

## COMMISSIONERS

### Donnelly Appointed Vice Chair

The Honourable **James M.**

**Donnelly** was appointed Vice Chair of the ORC in Feb., 2007. Active in his local community, he is well known in Southwestern



Ontario for his support and involvement in standard-bred racing. Donnelly served as an Ontario

Superior Court judge from 1985 to 2005. In that capacity, he served on the Divisional Court dealing with judicial review applications relating to the Ontario Racing Commission and other provincial regulatory boards.

### Garthson, Kelly, and Gorman reappointed Commissioners

In April, Minister of Government Services Gerry Phillips announced the reappointment of three ORC Commissioners: **Jane Garthson** (one year - April 29, 2008); **George Kelly** (two years - April 27, 2009); and **David Gorman** (three years - April 28, 2010).

## ADMINISTRATION

### Terry Stone Retires

After an exemplary career in the public service - including 14 years with the OPP and 27 years with the ORC - Director of Racing **Terry Stone** retired effective March 31, 2007.



Terry has agreed to continue to serve the ORC and be a resource to the horse racing community on a part time basis. At a reception in June honouring his contributions, ORC Executive Director John Blakney thanked Terry for his dedication through the years and his willingness to ensure that quality service continues to be delivered to the horse racing community.



OSS Publicity and Promotion Coordinator Leslie Waddell (L) and ORC Investigator Pam Bray speak with visitors to the ORC booth at the Can-Am Show in London last March. In an effort to communicate the positive messages of horse racing to the public, the ORC display appears at other community events and shows. Be sure to visit the ORC booth at the **International Plowing Match and Country Festival** September 18 - 22, 2007 in Leeds-Greenville, as well as the **Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**, November 2 - 11, 2007 in Toronto.

### New ORC Deputy Director

**Rob McKinney**, previously Director of Investigations, has been named ORC Deputy Director. He assumed his new duties effective April 1, 2007.



Rob was appointed Director of Investigations in February, 2004. Prior to that, he served as an Acting Unit Commander for the OPP and was seconded to the ORC for 2-1/2 years. In his new role, he will take on the additional responsibility of managing Racing Operations, and is intent on continuing to build strong

working relationships with the horse racing community.

### New ORC Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

**Steve Lehman** joined the ORC in late January, 2007 as CAO. A Chartered Accountant with over 15 years experience in various industry sectors - including 2 years



as Chief Financial Officer for the Ontario Harness Horse Association - he comes to the ORC with a solid background and knowledge of regulatory environments, municipal government and policing.

Steve is responsible for financial planning, corporate policy, government liaison, administration, information technology and information services, internal and external communications, and human resources.

## Medication Control cont'd from pg 1

be entering the world of horse racing, a Scientific Advisory Group has been formed and includes leaders in the field of equine health, pharmacology and forensic testing. We welcome and are grateful to these members.

Dr. Katherine Ball, DVM  
Western College of Veterinary Medicine  
Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology Resident

Dr. Dorothee Bienziele, DVM, Ph.D  
University of Guelph, Dept. of Pathobiology

Dr. Mike Weber, DVM  
Manager of CPMA Equine Drug  
Evaluation Centre

Dr. Alison Moore, DVM, ACVIM  
Vita Tech Laboratories

Adrienne Stevenson  
Forensic Chemist CPMA

Dr. Laurent Viel, DVM, Ph.D  
University of Guelph Clinical Studies

Dr. Lawrence Spriet, Ph.D  
University of Guelph, Exercise Physiologist

## Control Directive

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The sample shall be taken by an Official Veterinarian or any other delegated authority.

The purpose of the biological sample is to determine the existence of any substance or drug with no therapeutic value to the horse.

Failure of any owner and/or trainer or delegate to make the horse(s) available to have the biological sample drawn or taken on demand shall result in any or all of the following:

- a) The horse(s) being scratched;
- b) The trainer being refused the right to enter horse(s) in future races at Ontario race tracks; and/or
- c) The owner being refused the right to enter horse(s) in future races at Ontario race tracks.

## Hotline or Crime Stoppers: The Choice is yours

If you wish to pass along details of an issue of concern to the integrity of racing, you can do so confidentially and anonymously.

Call the ORC Hotline **1-877-668-7223**

No calls are traced - No Caller ID is in place. Your name and number will be kept confidential and you will never be named in an investigation. Coming soon, an additional confidential service

will be available to those who care about the integrity of racing. At their meeting in May, the Board of **Crime Stoppers** unanimously approved a partnership with the racing community. Crime Stoppers provides citizens with a vehicle to anonymously supply information about a crime or potential crime. **Cash rewards** are offered to people who call the program and their information leads to an arrest.

## Integrity Matters

A publication of the Ontario Racing Commission, the provincial agency which governs, directs and controls horse racing in any or all its forms in the Province of Ontario

Rod Seiling .....Chair  
James Donnelly .....Vice Chair

Bernard Brennan, D.V.M. ....Member  
Jane Garthson .....Member  
David Gorman .....Member  
George S. Kelly .....Member  
Brenda Walker .....Member

John L. Blakney ...Executive Director and CEO  
Ontario Racing Commission  
10 Carlson Court, Suite 400  
Toronto, Ontario M9W 6L2

P: (416) 213-0520  
ontarioracingcommission.ca

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## 2006 DEATH REGISTRY REPORT: 3 fewer cases and considerably lower than 2003 and 2004

There were 150 deaths reported in 2006, down from 153 the previous year. It now appears the record highs of 2004 (193) and 2003 (189) were actually aberrations.

Of the 2006 total, there were 91 Standardbred, 55 Thoroughbred and 4 Quarter Horse cases. This is a similar distribution to the previous years.

Fractures are still the largest group by far. Researchers at the University of Guelph are continuing their study on these cases. As noted in the Fall 2006 issue of **Integrity Matters**, they have identified a diagnostic aid (Qualitative Ultrasound) which when utilized to examine the canon bones of horses appears to predict animals that are at risk of fracturing. These researchers are continuing their work along these lines this year.

Thoroughbreds appear more likely to fracture bones above the ankle in the right forelimb. Standardbreds appear more likely to fracture the first pastern bone of the left hind limb and the sesamoid bones of the left front leg.

Deaths due to cardiovascular system disease remain constant. The research into these cases is progressing nicely and researchers are close to identifying the cause of many of these cardiovascular problems.



